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July 22, 1985

Stephen D. Yslas, President
Los Angeles Police Commission
Suite 144-150 Parker Center
150 N. Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Yslas:

I understand that the Commission will consider release of material about the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy at its July 30, 1985 meeting. As a political scientist with a particular concern for the impact of political violence on democratic society, I feel that it is critical that we understand those turbulent years and events which surrounded this tragic murder.

As I indicated in a January 28, 1985, letter to Mr. Yslas, it would be most important for me, my students, and fellow historians and political scientists to have available the Los Angeles Police Department records on the investigation of that case to promote research on this period. I simply want to reiterate this point, and to offer my strongest endorsement of Commission action to insure that this invaluable material be made available to the community of scholars as soon as possible. The interests of academic researchers, the public, and the Department are poorly served by a policy which frustrates public access and creates clouds of mistrust and suspicion for no apparent reason.

Although I will not be able to attend the meeting in person, I want to go on record as endorsing Commission action to insure that the records of the assassination investigation become part of the historical record.

Yours truly,

Lauriston R. King

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cc: Philip Melanson